

REMARKS

Claims 1-9, 12, 16-21, and 23-25 are pending in the application. In the Office Action dated December 29, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 1-9, 12, 16-21, and 23-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,256,735 ("Maria"). In this Amendment, claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 9, 12, 16, 18, and 19 have been amended and claims 2,4,7, 17, 20, 21, and 23-25 have been cancelled.

Each of the amended independent claims recite that an authentication key is provided to at least one destination server providing a secured service **independent of a request to access the secured service**. Maria recites that if a user is authorized to access a network element, "the server can then modify the request so as to somehow reflect the current key information which has already been passed on to the various network authentication nodes." (Col. 3, lines 62-67). Thus, unlike the amended independent claims where an authentication key is provided to a service provider **independent of a request to access a secured service**, in Maria, the authentication key is sent as part of a service request. Applicant respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection to the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Maria.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, Applicant submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration is therefore respectfully requested. If there are any questions concerning this Response, the Examiner is asked to phone the undersigned attorney at (312) 321-4200.

Respectfully submitted,



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